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on the subject. Owing, however, to its very recent development, and hence the absence of fundamental rules and principles, together with the obvious difficulties in the way of writing any "pioneer treatise," the profession has up to the present time been deprived of such a work. Mr. Frost, aided by his long association with this important branch of the law, has surmounted these difficulties in a commendable manner, and has presented a work of undoubted excellence and practical worth. The plan of the book, as explained by the author in the preface, has been to present, not what he thinks the law on the subject ought to be, but what it really is as established by approved cases and decisions. The contract, together with the parties thereto, is first taken up and fully explained and discussed. After a short consideration of its attachment, duration, and scope, the author proceeds to a very complete and comprehensive survey of the discharge of the liability. Then follows a concise presentation of the mutual rights and obligations existing between the insurer and the "risk." The volume closes with a number of valuable suggestions relative to practice and pleading, and an appendix containing brief extracts from the latest decisions bearing on the general subject.

E. T. C.

*Slavonic Law, Lectures On.* By Feoder Sigel. Henry Frowde, London, 1902. 1 vol. 152 pp.

Of the two forms of law, customary and statute, which predominate in the legal history of the Slavonic countries. We would likely consider, for example, the codified form of Russian law from the *uzozhenie* to the *Code of Laws of the Russian Empire* and the early and continued prevalence of local codes in Poland and Bohemia and say it was statute, not customary. Yet in Russia to-day where the whole law is codified three-quarters of the population live according to traditional custom and usages handed down through the centuries. Russia is rich in legal literature on customary law. Slavonic law, in this respect, more nearly resembles English and American than continental law. Roman law, so indelibly impressed on the constitutional law in Europe, left but a slight imprint on the legal rules of the Slavs. The Slavonic States never acknowledged the power of the Roman Catholic Church, nor did the far-reaching influence of feudalism affect their development in any substantial sense, therefore it is not strange that their legal, as well as their political development, has been of an independent character.

These lectures, which now appear in book form, were given in 1900 at the University of Oxford under the auspices of the Ilchester Trust. The book may be characterized as thoroughly scholarly and the lectures appear at no disadvantage when compared with those of Kovalesky and Vinogradoff. The bibliography is complete and of great value. An index might have improved the usefulness of the book.

G. R. J.

*University of Pennsylvania—Proceedings at the Dedication of the New Building of the Department of Law.* Compiled by George Erasmus Nitzsche, at the request of the Faculty. The International Printing Co., Philadelphia.

This edition is limited to five hundred and fifty copies, and the price of each book is three dollars. The workmanship is of the highest order and the volume contains numerous speeches. Prof. James B. Ames, Dean of the

Harvard Law School, spoke on "The Vocation of the Law Professor." He traced the development of the methods of teaching law, from the Inns of Court down to the present time, and suggested that we have in substance adopted the continental method of instruction. Another notable address was by His Excellency Wu Ting Fang, who took as his subject, "The Proper Relations of the United States to the Orient." Mr. Justice Harlan, and other noted men spoke, including representatives from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The book contains a letter written by Lord Mansfield, in acknowledgement of the receipt of the first volume of Dallas' reports. In one respect this work differs from most books of its kind, and that is that it will be found to be interesting reading from cover to cover. O. A. D.

*Void Judicial Sales.* By the Hon. A. C. Freeman, author of treatises on Executions, Judgments, etc., and editor of the American Decisions. Fourth edition. Leather. One volume. 341 pages with index. St. Louis: Central Law Journal Company, 1902.

No author of any treatise or work on Sales of Personal Property or Real Property has ever thought it expedient to elaborate to any extent the extremely important and constantly recurring topic of Void Judicial Sales. What is a judicial sale, and when is such a sale void, are matters which every lawyer often is obliged to ascertain. No better aid for such purpose can be found than in the book in question. According to the author, a judicial sale is a sale ordered by the court, conducted by an officer appointed by, or subject to, the control of the court, and requiring the approval of the court before it can be said to be final. Waiving the decision of what sales are judicial, the author assumes, for the purposes of this treatise, that judicial sales embrace three classes: (1) Those made in chancery; (2) Those made by executors, administrators, etc., when acting by virtue of judicial authority; and (3) all those cases where property is sold under an order of court authorizing such sale. Void sales are divided into two classes: (1) Those void because the court had no authority to order the sale; and (2) Those void because of some subsequent vice or defect, though based on a valid judicial decree of sale. The legal and equitable rights of purchasers at void sales are ably handled, as well as the subject of the constitutionality of curative statutes. The book is well known to the profession as the fact that it is on its fourth edition clearly demonstrates. In its new edition, amplified by recent decisions and complete appendix and index, it should continue to be, as it has been, a valuable aid to bench and bar. E. W.